



SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
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NEWS RELEASE

GOVERNOR APPOINTS NEW JUDGES TO RIVERSIDE COUNTY

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RIVERSIDE COUNTY:

On November 13, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom announced the appointment of Commissioner Kristi E. Hester and Michele A. Mathis to vacant judgeships in the Superior Court of California, County of Riverside.

Commissioner Kirsti E. Hester, 47, of Palm Desert, has been appointed to serve as a Judge in the Riverside County Superior Court. Commissioner Hester has served as a Commissioner at the Riverside County Superior Court since 2018. She served as a Deputy District Attorney at the Riverside County District Attorney's Office from 2005 to 2018. Commissioner Hester earned a Juris Doctor degree from Loyola Law School. She fills the vacancy of a new position created on September 24, 2019.

Michele A. Mathis, 40, of Menifee, has been appointed to serve as a Judge in the Riverside County Superior Court. Ms. Mathis has been a Deputy Public Defender at the Riverside County Public Defender's Office since 2008, where she has served in several positions, including Felony Trial Attorney, Drug Court Counsel, Misdemeanor Attorney and Juvenile Defender. Ms. Mathis earned a Juris Doctor degree from the Chapman University School of Law. She fills the vacancy of a new position created on September 24, 2019.

A state Judicial Needs Assessment has found that the Riverside Superior Court is in dire need of judgeships to help process the growing caseloads in its communities. The filling of these vacancies by Commissioner Hester and Michele Mathis will greatly assist the Court's goal in continuing to provide access to justice for court litigants.

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